

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests that the above amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1-10 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims 11-33 are added. It is believed that new claims 11-33 are patentably distinguished over the prior art of record in the prosecution of the priority patent applications to the present application. For example, independent claims 10 and 23 recite a system or method in which a head has a material through which air may pass and is tensioned across an end of a barrel section to define a percussion surface for receiving a percussion impact and a second surface facing opposite the percussion surface, wherein a cushioning member is in communication with the second surface of the head, yet allows air to pass through the head material.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

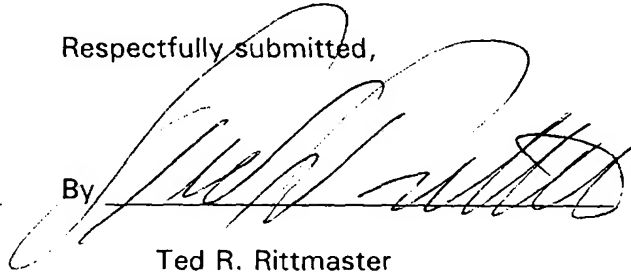
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

August 8, 2003

By



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